

REMARKS

This amendment, submitted in response to the Office Action dated June 7, 2004, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-36 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 10, 15, 20-22, 27, 32 and 33 have been allowed. Claims 4 and 5 have been objected to but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Claims 6, 13, 18 and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Watanabe et al. (US 6412978B1). Claims 7, 14, 19, 25-26 and 29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe. Claims 2-3, 8-9, 11-12, 16-17, 23-24, 30-31 and 34-36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe in view of Pattee (US 6142667).

Claims 4 and 5 have been rewritten to depend on allowable claim 1. Consequently, claims 4 and 5 should be deemed allowable. Rejected claims 2, 3, 6-9, 11-14, 16-19, 23-26, 28-31 and 34-36 have been canceled from the present application. This should now put the application in a condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 10, 15, 20-22, 27, 32 and 33 have been allowed. Applicant respectfully submits that the scope of the claims should be governed by the actual claim language and not by the Examiner's reasons for allowance.

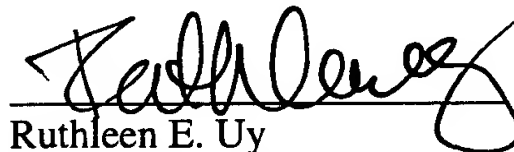
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No.: 09/987,654

Attorney Docket No.: Q66556

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruthleen E. Uy
Registration No. 51,361

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: October 7, 2004